

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, 1815–1902, *American reformer, a leader of the woman-suffrage movement, b. Johnstown, N.Y.* Elizabeth Stanton was educated at the Troy Female Seminary (now Emma Willard School) in Troy, N.Y. In 1840 she married Henry Brewster Stanton, a journalist and abolitionist, and attended with him the international slavery convention in London. The woman delegates were excluded from the floor of the convention; the indignation this aroused in Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott was an important factor in their efforts to organize women to win greater equality. With several others they called the first women's rights convention in the United States in 1848 at Seneca Falls, N.Y. Stanton insisted that a suffrage clause be included in the bill of rights for women that was drawn up at the convention. From 1852, despite occasional disagreements, she was intimately associated with Susan B. Anthony in leading the women's movement. Stanton was president of the National Woman Suffrage Association (1869–90) and of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (1890–92).

**Susan B. Anthony**, 1820 – 1906, *A Leader in the fight for women's rights, b. Adams, Massachusetts.* Susan Anthony began her career as a women's advocate calling for equal pay as a teenage schoolteacher. In her early years she also helped found the Woman's State Temperance Society of New York, one of the first organizations of its time to fight spousal abuse by alcoholic husbands, and she also devoted herself to the antislavery movement and served as an agent for the American Anti-slavery Society. In 1851 Susan met and joined Stanton and Amelia Bloomer in campaigns for women's rights. In 1854, She collaborated with Stanton and published the New York liberal weekly, "The Revolution" (1868-70) which called for equal pay for women.

In 1872, Susan demanded that women be given the same civil and political rights that had been extended to black males under the 14th and 15th amendments. Thus, she led a group of women to the polls in Rochester to test the right of women to vote. She was arrested and after being tried and convicted of violating the voting laws, Susan succeeded in her refusal to pay the fine. From then on she campaigned endlessly for a federal woman suffrage amendment through the National Woman Suffrage Association (1869-90) and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (1890-1906) and by lecturing throughout the country.

Anthony, along with Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage published the *History of Woman Suffrage* 4 vol (1881-1902) In 1888 she organized the International Council of Women and in 1904 the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Although Anthony did not live to see the consummation of her efforts to win the right to vote for women, the establishment of the 19th amendment is deeply owed to her efforts. The U.S. mint issued a circulating dollar coin with her image in 1979.

**Harriet Tubman**, 1820–1913, *American abolitionist, b. Dorchester co., Md.* Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman escaped to Philadelphia in 1849, and subsequently became one of the most successful “conductors” on the Underground Railroad. Returning to the South more than a dozen times, she is generally credited with leading more than 300 slaves

(including her parents and brother) to freedom, sometimes forcing the timid ahead with a loaded revolver. She became a speaker on the anti-slavery lecture circuit and a friend of the principal abolitionists, and John Brown almost certainly confided his Harpers Ferry plan to her. During the Civil War, Tubman attached herself to the Union forces in coastal South Carolina, serving as a nurse, cook, laundress, scout, and spy, and in 1863 she played an important part in a raid that resulted in the freeing of more than 700 slaves.

**Amelia Earhart**, 1897–1937, *American aviator, b. Atchison, Kans.* Amelia Earhart was the first woman to cross the Atlantic by airplane (1928) and the first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic (1932). She was the first person to fly alone from Honolulu to California (1935). In 1937, she attempted with a copilot, Frederick J. Noonan, to fly around the world, but her plane was lost on the flight between New Guinea and Howland Island. In 1992, a search party reported finding remnants of Earhart's plane on Nikumaroro (formerly Gardner Island), Kiribati, but their claims were disputed by people who worked on Earhart's plane, and her fate remains a mystery. In 1964, Geraldine Mock was the first woman to successfully complete Earhart's round-the-world route.

**Dorethea Dix**, b. 1802–87, *American social reformer, pioneer in the movement for humane treatment of the insane, b. Hampden, Maine.* For many years Dorethea Dix ran a school in Boston. In 1841 she visited a jail in East Cambridge, Mass., and was shocked at conditions there, especially the indiscriminate mixing of criminals and the insane. After inspecting other Massachusetts institutions, she wrote (1842) a famous memorandum to the state legislature. Her crusade resulted in the founding of state hospitals for the insane in many states, and her influence was felt in Canada and Europe. Dix also did notable work in penology. During the Civil War she was superintendent of women war nurses.

**Helen Adams Keller**, 1880–1968, *American author and lecturer, blind and deaf from an undiagnosed illness at the age of two, b. Tuscumbia, Ala.* Helen Keeler's disabilities were caused by a fever in February, 1882 when she was 19 months old. By age seven she had invented over sixty different signs that she could use to communicate with her family. In 1887 she was put under the charge of Anne Sullivan, herself visually impaired and then only 20 years old. Sullivan would be a teacher and companion to Keller until her death in 1936.

As a pupil Helen Keller made rapid progress and attended Perkins Institute for the Blind (1888), the Wright-Humason School for the Deaf (1894), and The Cambridge School for Young Ladies (1898) before gaining admittance, in 1900, to Radcliffe College. In 1904 at the age of 24, Helen graduated from Radcliffe *cum laude*, becoming the first deaf and blind person to graduate from a college.

Keller went on to become a world-famous speaker, lectured all over America and in Europe and Asia, and an author. She is remembered as an advocate for the sensorially handicapped, but also supported progressive causes. In 1915 she founded Helen Keller International, a non-profit organization for preventing blindness.

**Lucretia Coffin Mott**, 1793–1880, *American feminist and reformer, b. Nantucket, Mass.* Lucretia Coffin moved (1804) with her family to Boston and later (1809) to Philadelphia. A Quaker, she studied and taught at a Friends school near Poughkeepsie, N.Y. After 1818 she became known as a lecturer for temperance, peace, the rights of labor, and the abolition of slavery. She aided fugitive slaves, and following the meeting (1833) of the American Anti-Slavery Society, she became a leader in organizing the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society. Refusal by the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London (1840) to recognize women delegates led to her championship of the cause of women's rights. With Elizabeth Cady Stanton she organized the first women's rights convention in the United States in 1848 at Seneca Falls, N.Y. After the war, she served as first president of the American Equal Rights Association, an organization devoted to securing the vote for the ex-slave and, some believed, for women.

**Sandra Day O'Connor**, 1930–, *U.S. lawyer and first female Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1981–), b. El Paso, Tex.* After graduating from Stanford law school in 1952, Sandra Day O'Connor returned to practice law in her home state of Arizona. There she served as a state assistant attorney general (1965–69) and a Republican state senator (1969–74). Appointed a state judge in 1974 and later named to the Arizona Court of Appeals. In 1981, President Reagan nominated her to the U.S. Supreme Court, where she became the first woman justice. Except in cases of sexual discrimination, she has generally resisted judicial activism, emerging in the 1990s as a frequent swing vote between more and less conservative blocs. She announced her retirement in July 2005 and entered retirement after the confirmation of her successor, Samuel Alito, in January 2006.

**Sally K. Ride** 1951–, *American astrophysicist and astronaut, b. Encino, Calif.* With a Ph.D. in physics from Stanford Univ., she joined NASA in 1978, where she was an astronaut (1979–87) and helped design the robot arm for the space shuttle. In 1983 she became the first American woman in space. She also served (1986, 2003) on the commissions that investigated the *Challenger* and *Columbia* disasters. In 1989 she became professor of physics and director of the California Space Institute at the Univ. of Calif., San Diego.

**Margaret Chase Smith**, 1897–1995, *U.S. senator from Maine (1949–73), b. Skowhegan, Maine.* Margaret Chase taught school briefly and then worked on the Skowhegan weekly newspaper from 1919–28. In 1930 she married Clyde Smith, the publisher of the paper, and upon his election as a U.S. representative served in Washington as his secretary, researcher, and office manager. Active in Republican party politics, she was elected after the death of her husband in 1940 to finish his unexpired term, becoming Maine's first congresswoman. She was reelected four times. Noted for her integrity and independence, she was elected U.S. senator in 1948 and reelected in 1954, 1960, and 1966. Her distinguished career made her the first woman elected to both houses of Congress.

In 1964, Senator Smith pursued her own political ambitions, running in several Republican presidential primaries. She took her candidacy all the way to the Republican National Convention in San Francisco, where she became the first woman to have her

name placed in nomination for the presidency by either of the two major parties. Smith came in second to Barry Goldwater.

**Sacagawea**, b. 1784?, Sacagawea was born a Shoshone Indian, raised in the west and eventually sold and married to French Canadian trader Toussaint Charbonneau. Accompanied by her infant son, a still teenage Sacagawea acted as a geographic guide, diplomat, and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition from 1804 to 1806, leading them from the Great Plains to the Pacific Coast. It is believed that expedition could not have prevailed without her expertise and her presence as an Indian woman with a baby helped to convince Indians that this party of whites was friendly. In 2000 the U.S. mint issued a circulating dollar coin with her likeness.

**Rosa Lee Parks**, 1913–2005, *American civil-rights activist, b. Tuskegee, Ala.*, as Rosa Louise McCauley. A seamstress and long-time member of the Montgomery, Ala., chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), her Dec. 1, 1955, arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a municipal bus to a white man sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. This successful protest, which lasted just over a year, marked the emergence of Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence as a civil-rights leader and provided the model for future nonviolent movement actions. Fired from her job and unable to find work, Parks moved in 1957 to Detroit, where she remained active in the civil-rights movement and worked (1965–88) as an aide to Congressman John Conyers. She was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress's highest honor, in 1999. In 2005 the nation mourned Rosa Parks passing. The heroine of the civil rights struggle was the first woman given the honor of lying in state at the Capitol rotunda.

**Emily Dickinson**, 1830 – 1886, *American poet, b. Amherst, Massachusetts*. Emily Dickinson attended Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in South Hadley, but severe homesickness led her to return home after one year. Throughout her life, she seldom left her house and visitors were scarce. The people with whom she did come in contact, however, had an enormous impact on her thoughts and poetry. By the 1860s, Dickinson lived in almost total physical isolation from the outside world, but actively maintained many correspondences and read widely. She spent a great deal of this time with her family. Her father, Edward Dickinson, was actively involved in state and national politics, serving in Congress for one term. While Dickinson was extremely prolific as a poet and regularly enclosed poems in letters to friends, she was not publicly recognized during her lifetime. The first volume of her work was published posthumously in 1890 and the last in 1955.

**Isadora Duncan**, 1877-1927, *American dancer, artist and founder of modern contemporary dance movement, b. San Francisco, California*. As a child Isadora Duncan studied many forms of dance and began a professional career in the arts in Chicago in

1896. Duncan traveled to New York and across Europe studying and performing dance. In 1903 she delivered a speech in Berlin called "The Dance of the Future." In it she argued that the dance of the future would be similar to the dance of the ancient Greeks, natural and free. She began to develop her theories of dance education and to assemble her famous dance group, later known as the Isadorables. Duncan returned to the United States in 1908 to begin a series of tours throughout the country. In the following years her philosophy and technique grew in popularity and Duncan returned to Europe where she created and maintained schools in France, Germany and Russia. She continued to sponsor young dancers and to give her solo performances. She returned to the United States several times, touring the country, but she never lived there again. In 1927, Duncan was killed in an automobile accident in Paris.

**Harriet Beecher Stowe**, 1811-1896, *American novelist and antislavery activist, b. Connecticut*. Harriet Beecher was the daughter of Congregational minister Lyman Beecher and Roxana Foote Beecher. In 1836 she married Calvin Stowe -- a professor and clergyman who fervently opposed slavery. The work of the Underground Railroad deeply touched both Calvin and Harriet. They sheltered fugitive slaves in their home until they moved to Maine in 1850. Shortly after, she quickly became a literary sensation when she published *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in which she expresses her moral outrage at the institution of slavery and its destructive effects on both whites and blacks. She portrays the evils of slavery as especially damaging to maternal bonds, as mothers dread the sale of their children. Publishing nearly a book a year between 1862 and 1884, Harriet Beecher Stowe continued to write on social issues and controversies of the time. When Stowe met President Lincoln in 1862, he is said to have exclaimed, "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war!"

**Sojourner Truth**, 1797-1883, *Activist for civil and women's rights, b. New York*. The woman we know as Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in New York as Isabella Baumfree. She was sold several times, and while owned by the John Dumont family in Ulster County, married Thomas, another of Dumont's slaves. She had five children with Thomas. In 1827, New York law emancipated all slaves, but Isabella had already left her husband and run away, with her youngest child. She later discovered that a member of the Dumont family had sold one of her children to slavery in Alabama. Since this son had been emancipated under New York Law, Isabella sued in court and won his return.

In 1843, she took the name Sojourner Truth, believing this to be on the instructions of the Holy Spirit and became a traveling preacher (the meaning of her new name). In the late 1840s she connected with the abolitionist movement, becoming a popular speaker. In 1850, she also began speaking on woman suffrage. Her most famous speech, *Ain't I a Woman?*, was presented in 1851 at a women's rights convention in Ohio. During the Civil War Sojourner Truth raised food and clothing contributions for black regiments, and met Abraham Lincoln at the White House in 1864.

After the War ended, Sojourner Truth again spoke widely, advocating mostly on religion, "Negro" and women's rights, and on temperance, though immediately after the Civil War she tried to organize efforts to provide jobs for black refugees from the war.

Active until 1875, Sojourner Truth returned to Michigan where she died in 1883 and was buried in Battle Creek, Michigan.